the peace of the world ' even *The Times* said it, despite a Czechoslovakia blessedly relieved of fringe of alien populations.

Yet with this almost universal longing for strength, it came tardily. Not the means were lacking, but, it appeared, the will —like a patient determined to recover former vigour, ready to take any medicine, submit to any regime, endure any operation, undertake any expenditure; trying auto-suggestion —'I'm as well as ever I was', yet somehow the very inmost fount of vitality refusing to be revived, there the mischief. Rearmament proceeded, Sir Thomas Inskip relinquishing co-ordination of defence, Lord Chatfield his successor; elderly generals compulsorily retired, giving place to less elderly ones; ever larger sums of money voted, and aeroplanes purchased in the United States to make good deficiencies in home production; the Territorial Army's strength doubled, and a National Service Handbook, whose reputed author was Mr. Humbert Wolfe, circulated; after some hesitation, conscription introduced without any appreciable opposition, conscripted troops to be called Militia, and to wear, when not in uniform, grey flannel trousers and blue blazer, supplied free of charge. Rearmament proceeded; 'We must be strong!' but were we strong?

Strength is as elusive as happiness; like happiness, sought and not found, prepared for and not attained. Goliath was strong, and David was weak; yet David aimed his pebbles accurately, whereas Goliath's massive sword impotently floundered. Ichthyosaurus, enormously protected and armed, became extinct; yet, according to Mr. Aldous Huxley, gentle, sensitive

tarsier survived to become ungentle homo sapiens. Goliath, lying on the ground, impregnable armour still around him, muscles all relaxed, may well have wondered wherein lay the secret of his frail adversary's strength; last ichthyosaurus expiring, may well have been puzzled by gentle tarsier's survival.

Faith is strength, however meagrely equipped; to be faithless is to be weak, however amply furnished with the means of aggression. If life is not worth continuing, it is not worth defending; increase and strength expire together. For bread alone,